

The background is a vibrant yellow and orange gradient with diagonal rays of light. It is adorned with various autumn-themed elements: brown and orange leaves, some falling, and decorative swirls and dotted lines. The overall aesthetic is warm and celebratory.

Samvardhani Workshop by Sampurna

**REPORT ON SAMVARDHANI TRAINING WORKSHOP
HELD BY SAMPURNA NGO**

Date: 11 September 2021

Time: 3pm - 6:30 pm

Venue: Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, 110001

Target Audience: voluntary organizations, both big and small actively working in Delhi and nearby areas.

The training workshop was held on the following subjects:

1. Convergence – The essence of social sector.

Speakers – 1. Lalitha Kumaramangalam former chairperson of NCW
2. Dr Rashmi Singh IAS
3. Onkareshwar Pandey senior journalist.

2. Handling crisis situation

Speakers – 1. Padma Shree Dr Jitender Singh Shunty
2. Mr Sanjeev Srivastav, a renowned social worker
3. Sangeeta Sinha, president of Sathi Foundation.

3. Networking and coordinating

Speakers – 1. Mr Sunil Deodhar, National Secretary of BJP
2. Dr Sunita Reddy Associate Professor JNU
3. Dr Rakesh Sinha, MP Rajya Sabha.

* Dr Shobha Vijender, founder president of Sampurna, chaired the sessions.

Introduction

Sampurna NGO is a registered organization that has been actively working in Delhi for the past three decades. We have been a pioneer in imparting knowledge to the spirited individuals aspiring to build their own organization. The established NGOs are further trained to strengthen themselves for providing solutions to the community. More than 100 volunteer efforts have been shaped by us to grow & flourish in the comprehensive manner.

Sampurna is determined to train the small time NGOs with weaker networking and coordination in achieving the goal of an inclusive society. The 11th September training programme is one such instance in the chain of voluntary efforts we are trying to make. More than 100 organizations were contacted and registered, keeping in mind networking and coordination to further accelerate the work by voluntary organizations. The representatives of the social sector are hereby requested to continue the struggle of becoming the strong fifth pillar of the democracy to showcase the world the strength of voluntary efforts of India to make it reliant and progressive.

Keeping in view the present pandemic in the world, it has become all the more critical to train the organizations to deal with the covid19 situation arising in the society. The knowledge gained can prove to be invaluable in immediate to long-term support.

Session I Convergence – The Essence of Social Sector

Social Sector is the back bone of any nation towards an inclusive society. India is no exception. In a diverse cultural society like us, the impact of the development of social sector is essential for other sectors to bloom and flourish. Children are the most vulnerable section of the society which needs immediate attention for the country to plan and strategize any futuristic development module. A huge number of children in our country still need primary education, basic health care and nutrition, access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The problems themselves are so layered and interwoven that without targeting family and society at large we cannot address the problems any individual solution alone cannot address them. Ultimately, partnerships are the driving force that play their role as a catalyst to reach the goal in a better way. Since the developmental problems are complex, it is the partnership that provides you the specialists to deal with the specific problem. The partnerships simplify your work and enhance its impact. In the long run, economic growth depends on the social wellbeing index. The problem lies in the fact that the different states in India are giving unequal importance to different competent factors constituting the social sector. This has widened a disparity in the level of social sector development which might have led to an inequality in the human resource development. It ultimately has caused unequal economic growth across the Indian States. In this perspective, it can be said that there is an existence of a stable, codependent relationship between social sector development and economic growth in the country.

Lalitha Kumaramangalam conferred about how we could empower our existing agencies if we worked under one roof, resulting in reduction of overall per capita expenditure. She also substantiated on how the beneficiary is one individual and in turn the relief required should also come from a single unit of unified agencies instead of

various sources, therefore practicing convergence in order to improve the life of an individual. She also pointed out that while the government cannot function without its departments, NGOs and Government can come together to work for social welfare in order to have a better reach.

Dr Rashmi Singh discussed about the steps to converge. She postulated that the unit of convergence is the beneficiary and so, we need to lessen our divisions, perceive, understand and accordingly deliver the needs of that unit. According to her, the experiment to bring the scattered Anganwadis, ASHA workers, Mahila Panchayat along with the neighbourhood NGOs together is the best example of convergence. She also pointed out how mapping can help tremendously in order to find out the resources required to achieve convergence and therefore help the agencies to attain their desired outcome.

Mr Onkareshwar Pandey, who has a rich experience of working with voluntary sector said that since India has both divergence and diversity, we need to have convergence in order to work successfully on our goals. With technology, with plentiful expertise in different areas of various NGOs along with different individual inputs and ideas we can have a positive impact on the society through convergence vis-à-vis social welfare.

Session II Handling Crisis Situation

When India was severely hit with the COVID-19 pandemic and Lockdown began on March 24, 2020, majority of vulnerable citizens were suddenly cut off from both their livelihoods and families. This led to migration, hunger, pain and depression everywhere. In response, thousands of nonprofit organizations mobilized to provide food, healthcare services, information, cash transfers and transportation to affected populations. It must be noted that more than 80% of the nonprofit organizations are working with meager resources along with the limited information. They still worked tirelessly to meet out the needs of the people. These nonprofits had to face the hardships brought upon by the pandemic as the general public faced. While trying to make resources available to the people in need, they themselves also struggled with the pandemic's effects which struck their own capacities and sustainability.

Secondly, shifting to digital platforms was not easy for the NGOs as they were not prepared for that, again, due to the lack of knowledge as well as resources. There is one argument that the voluntary organizations, as an agency to handle the crisis situation, could not tackle the situation the way they could have. So, we could say that handling crisis situation is still a distant dream for the voluntary sector.

The 'new normal' we now live in, requires us to create updated strategies and operational priorities to survive in the drastically changing world. We must familiarize ourselves with the ongoing changes and adapt to the current technology so that we are able to join the digital revolution. Thus, we would be able to work remotely with the marginalized communities. The digitization of service delivery would further reach out to the needy corruption free.

The second session which was about handling crisis situation, was eye opener as speakers narrated the stories of voluntary organizations working in areas where it was very difficult to access the services of the government during peak covid times.

Padma Shree Dr Jitender Singh Shunty, who is also the founder of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Sewa Dal NGO shed light on the fact that experience is more important than textual knowledge. Sharing about his own experiences during the onset of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic when India suffered many casualties, he shared how important the desire to help can be and how far it can go to aid someone in a time of distress. He said that NGOs should be acknowledged by the government for their commendable work in a time of crisis since no one in the country was ready or equipped to handle the situation. In doing so, the NGOs would have further motivation to work in a much more efficient manner in the future.

Sangeeta Sinha, president of Sathi Foundation emphasized on how networking is very important. She took this initiative with the hope that all NGOs will work together for the social cause. She pointed out how it is integrated networking which helps the vulnerable section in crisis situation. The small initiatives taken by the NGOs in generating awareness can have a profound effect. For example spreading awareness about menstruation could have a far reaching effect on women's physical health and social well being. She said that women living in remote areas will only benefit if there is proper coordination among the voluntary sector and state government, especially if there is a crisis situation.

Sanjeev Srivastav, currently working with Rashtriya Antyodaya Sangh as a consultant, pointed out how some people have immense capacity building to assess a situation and help in time of need but are of no use because they lack the will to work for

social welfare. Similarly, there are people who are very concerned about the society and social welfare but do not have the appropriate training, networks or resources to have an impactful reach. He pointed out that we should learn from the smallest examples of goodwill (for example picking up stray trash and putting it in the garbage bin) and build our way up from there to increase our knowledge, networking and capacity which can prove to be beneficial in a crisis situation.

Session III Networking and Coordination

Networking is significant in human life. It holds true in today's time that networking helps to sustain humanity. In the same manner, the voluntary sector with whatsoever its mission or goal, the procedures, the ways and means to reach that goal demands networking.

Networking endeavors support the NGO's own activities. This may support the organization to achieve its goal in a comparatively easier way with a better cost-effective approach. As human beings, if we were to transform the society through voluntary efforts, networking and coordination could not be sidelined. We have to accept the fact that voluntary efforts at grassroots level encounter interwoven complexities of society and therefore to find solutions they always need support system and that system could not be achieved without networking and coordination. It is important to share the recent survey conducted by Sahayog Foundation across 160 nonprofit leaders. It revealed that 96% of them believe that it is possible to scale programmes through collaboration. It suggests that collaborations/partnerships are important agents of bringing social change as it facilitates the voluntary efforts to accomplish its mission.

NGOs must make sure to find a partnership which is committed to working on the same beliefs as their own and are dedicated to the outcomes. Let's pledge for better understanding among the leaders and founders of voluntary sector with networking and coordination. The voluntary organizations would serve the country, coordinating with each other to benefit the vulnerable section of the society at all times and supporting the masses in a crisis situation.

Sunil Deodhar, the founder of *My Home India Foundation* pointed out that technology has helped significantly to take out the middle man and reduce corruption when it comes to receiving help from the government. He emphasized that if we work with a better understanding, we should be able to show each other's strengths and help overcome our weaknesses. He stressed on the fact that the voluntary sector needs collaborations in order to help people and those collaborations cannot be obtained without trust. Trust is a necessary factor in efficient working of an NGO and its partnership. "Trust cannot be bought. It can only be earned." He also pointed out that intention and presentation is also important for an NGO to build that trust.

Dr Sunita Reddy, who is also the founder of Anthropos Foundation, said that there is an urgent need to promote research on social sector issues. She said that the gap between academia and policy makers needs to be reduced. She suggested that students from good universities who do research spanning 5 years should send their executive summary of policies and recommendations to the concerned ministries with the help of their universities/ ICSSR/ UGC. She recommended that NGOs should work from a multidisciplinary perspective and rather than competing amongst themselves, they should work and engage meaningfully, keeping the beneficiary in mind.

Dr Rakesh Sinha MP Rajya Sabha shared his concerns about how women are the most marginalized community in our country. He said that on further classification of vulnerable categories of marginalized women, he found that the sex workers whom referred to as "sex slaves" is the group that needs to be targeted by the social sector. He encouraged the voluntary sector to learn from the people who have experience in working in the field of social welfare and build upon their knowledge. According to him each effort counts towards the betterment of the country. He emphasized on the fact that an

NGO works to develop the people's potential which, in the long run, will have tremendous impact on the development of the country and society.

Observation

It was observed that all the speakers on the panel of the three sessions agreed that convergence is a must and is required for advancement of the NGO's endeavors. There was a collective agreement on the fact that without networking it was impossible to achieve the desired goals. However, it might be a challenge since all the NGOs have their own techniques, procedures, philosophies and ways of functioning. Like Rakesh Sinha said, NGOs experiment with their functioning, each working with a different set of rules and regulations, trying to get the best results possible. While it was agreed upon that NGOs' main goal is to make the people of the country happy, it is also the truth that more than 80% of the NGOs are under-equipped to function properly since they are entirely dependant on government funds.

Even the big scale ngos might find it difficult to converge under one roof to work together since their own projects vary and the time duration also plays an important role.

While there are a number of nonprofits working in the country, a huge number of them are small time NGOs with almost no networking capacity or necessary skills to properly carry out their tasks. However this problem can be solved with the help of Schools of Social Work in the country. They are the masters of capacity building in the field of social work and can help the NGOs located in their vicinity in improving their skills and coordination which can have a tremendous impact.

On a closing note, it must be taken into consideration that NGOs are not vagrants. Their sustainability matters keeping in perspective the work they do in the social sector. Thus, they should be supported by their fellow NGOs, the government, philanthropists, companies and individuals who believe in and work for social welfare.



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